



Testimony in support of
S.B. No. 991: "AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS."
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Good morning Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, Senator Seminara, Representative Case and members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Mike Finley and I wish to share comments in support of **Senate Bill No. 991, "AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS."**

I am the Public Policy Coordinator at Mental Health Connecticut (MHC), a 114-year-old community-based, nonprofit focused on person-centered, recovery-oriented care delivered through evidence-based practices.

CHWs play a crucial role in facilitating interactions between patients, the healthcare system, and social and economic services. They offer valuable assistance in various areas such as scheduling appointments, understanding health insurance benefits, communicating with healthcare professionals, adapting medical advice to patients' individual circumstances, and accessing additional services like food and diaper banks.

In contrast to 25 other states, Connecticut's Medicaid program does not currently reimburse CHW services or encourage healthcare providers to collaborate with them. It is imperative that this changes. Utilizing the services of community health workers is an effective means of addressing health disparities and promoting well-being, especially for low-income households enrolled in Medicaid.

This legislation will be crucial in requiring that HUSKY Health, which oversees Connecticut's Medicaid and CHIP programs, develop an all-inclusive plan for reimbursing community health workers that satisfies the scope of work and reimbursement requirements specified by the CHW coalition.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 6612, which will provide much-needed support for the CHWs in Connecticut. I urge the committee to support this bill and to champion all policies that work to support our CHWs in our state.

Respectfully,

Mike Finley
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